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ABSTRACT

A survey of interlibrary cooperative projects engaging libraries and librarians in the Baltimore - Washington metropolitan area that could be identified during the winter and spring months of 1970-71 are presented. Cooperative projects discussed included: (1) Union Lists such as the "Journal Holdings in the Washington - Baltimore area," published annually by computer print-out which represents holdings of 44 different libraries, mostly non-government and a "Union List of Serials in the Libraries of the Consortium of Universities of the Metropolitan Washington Area," published by the Catholic University Press; (2) Networks currently in use in the area and (3) Informal Organizations which were started to fill the need for interlibrary loans among small libraries of similar interest. The origin of the Committee on Information Hang-Ups is related and its decision not to disband after completing the study, "Information Hang-Ups," but instead to study other problems insoluble for the individual libraries but possibly vulnerable to the attack by a group of concerned libraries is discussed. (Author/NH)

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INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION
IN THE
BALTIMORE - WASHINGTON AREA

May 1971

Committee on Information Hang-Ups
Greater Washington, D.C., Area
Subcommittee on Interlibrary Cooperation

LI 002 764

May 24, 1971

To: Committee on Information Hang-Ups

It is our pleasure to present the attached survey of interlibrary cooperative projects engaging libraries and librarians in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area that could be identified during the winter and spring months of 1970-71.

We think we have included all the major projects but it is probable some useful or interesting cooperative ventures have not come to our attention. We will be glad to hear of them.

Subcommittee on Interlibrary Cooperation

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INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION IN THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON AREA

Within the metropolitan Baltimore-Washington area, which includes the eastern half of Maryland and much of northern Virginia, a number of interlibrary cooperative projects have been identified that involve special libraries or that offer their benefits to special libraries.

DIRECTORIES OF LIBRARIES

The Joint Venture, a publishing consortium of the District of Columbia Library Association, the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Special Libraries Association, the American Society for Information Science, the Federal Library Committee, and the Biological Sciences Communications Project, George Washington University, is publishing the eighth edition of "Libraries and Reference Facilities in the area of the District of Columbia", edited by Mildred Benton, Biological Sciences Communications Project. Advance orders were taken at $4.75; orders received after May 1 cost $5.95.

The Baltimore chapter, Special Libraries Association, and the Library Extension Division, Maryland State Department of Education, are working together to produce a "Directory of Libraries and Information Collections in the State of Maryland." All contributing libraries will receive a free copy; it is probable libraries outside the state may buy copies when it is published later this year.

A "Directory of Urban Studies Libraries in the Washington,D.C. Area" was published last year by a group of libraries with common interest in urban affairs; a second edition is being prepared this spring. Contributing libraries will receive copies; other libraries may be able to get copies by applying to Mrs. Elizabeth K. Miller, Director of the Library, Urban Institute, 2100 M Street N.W., Washington,D.C.

The Federal Library Committee recently published two directories: "A Study of Resources and Major Subject Holdings Available in U.S. Federal Libraries Maintaining Extensive or Unique Collections of Research Materials" (September 1970) and "Roster of Federal Libraries" (October 1970). Both were produced under the editorship of Mildred Benton, Biological Sciences Communications Project. Copies may be available on request from the Secretary, Federal Library Committee, Library of Congress.

UNION LISTS

By far the best known union list of periodical holdings in the area is that produced by the Library of the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University. "Journal Holdings in the Washington-Baltimore Area" is published annually by computer print-out, and contains over 5,000 periodical titles representing the holdings of 44 different libraries, the majority non-governmental. This spring a committee representing contributors to the list was formed to advise on the improvement of the publication. They have invited additional contributors from libraries which include subject areas not well represented on the union list. The committee is also encouraging the submission of information on holdings of annuals or other continuations not specifically periodicals. It is exploring the assignment of archival retention responsibility for hard-to-find titles to a number of libraries so that other libraries hard pressed for space can dispose of some material without fearing its becoming unavailable in the area. Copies of this list are available on request to the Library, Applied Physics Laboratory.

The Consortium of Universities of Washington, D.C., has also published a "Union List of Serials in the Libraries of the Consortium of Universities of the Metropolitan Washington Area". It is now in its second edition, and is published at $20 by the Catholic University Press.

The Law Librarians' Society of Washington have prepared a supplement to the second edition of the "Union List of Legal Periodicals in the Washington, D.C. Area". Both are available at $15 from Coiner Publications, 3066 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. A 1970 supplement to the Society's "Union List of Legislative Histories", (1967) has been announced by Coiner Publications: supplement and original cost $20.

Virginia has two state-wide union lists of interest. The Engineering Library, University of Virginia, is responsible for the production of the "PHIL-Union List" which reports journal holdings of 44 major university and special libraries in the state. This

costs $15 and may be ordered from the compiling library. The Medical School of the University of Virginia has prepared a "Virginia Union List of Biomedical Serials" (VULBS) which lists the holdings of the 16 major medical libraries of the state. This is available free on request to the VULBS Project Office at the Medical School.

The suburban public libraries of Northern Virginia and George Mason College library have prepared a "SUBL Union List" of their periodical holdings. The list is not available to any but the contributing libraries; this year the Arlington County Library System is responsible for its production. Libraries that are not contributors may gain access to its information through their local public libraries.

Two other groups are understood to be thinking of producing union lists: the Federal Library Committee and the Urban Studies Library group. Information on both projects is insufficient for detailed reporting.

NETWORKS

Any borrower registered in any Maryland public library may use his borrower's card to borrow directly from any public library in the state. Borrowers registered in Fairfax, Montgomery or Prince George's County Library Systems may use their cards in any library of the three systems. In both of these arrangements, the borrower need not return his material to the lending library; he may take it to his usual library.

The public library systems of the District of Columbia, Montgomery, Prince George's, Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties support a daily messenger service (MAILS) connecting their headquarters. Each system also has its own messenger service connecting branches and headquarters. The Montgomery County library also has a messenger run between the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore and its headquarters. These systems make possible the quick, free delivery of library material throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. If the special library is borrowing from one of the libraries using these systems, it can often arrange pick-up of the material at a branch close by. It is less easy to use the system when neither borrower nor lender are public libraries.

In Maryland, the Enoch Pratt Library serves as the resource library for the state, with the McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, supplementing it. Book catalogs for the Enoch Pratt Library are available in the county library systems of Maryland, and may be subscribed to annually by other libraries. Subscriptions to the book catalogs of the Montgomery County (Md.) and Fairfax County (Va.) public library systems are also available to libraries. In Virginia,

the University of Virginia libraries in Charlottesville and the Virginia State Library, Richmond, are the major resource libraries. Special libraries in these states may go directly to the state resource libraries or forward their request through their local public library. No major resource library is designated in the District of Columbia.

The library cooperation program of the Consortium of Universities of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., area involves the libraries of American, Catholic, George Washington, Georgetown, and Howard Universities. Under it, students have access to the libraries of all member institutions but there is a tendency to give priority in library service to graduate students. The interlibrary loan program is well supported between the university libraries and public libraries but some of the Consortium libraries refuse to lend to special libraries. Each member library informs other members of new acquisitions and special developments, and is expected to retain complete files of the publications of its university and faculty. Assignment of retention responsibility for journal files has not been attempted. The Consortium now has a coordinator, Darrell Lemke, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (667-4416)

The Washington Theological Consortium consists of twelve seminaries, predominately Catholic but including three Protestant seminaries. Under the Consortium's library program, students have access to the libraries of all member institutions, with an interlibrary loan program based on established regulations. In 1970, the Consortium published the "Union List of Serials in Libraries of the Theological Consortium, with the Dumbarton College Library Included;" distribution of this is limited to members. Under consideration is a plan to print book catalogs by computer and to assign retention responsibility for specified journals. The office of a coordinator is to be established in the future; at present, go to Roland E. Kircher, Librarian, Westley Theological Seminary, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (363-0922) for information.

Unusual citations from the medical literature may be sought through two different channels, depending on one's physical location. Libraries in northern Virginia should go to the Medical College Library in Richmond rather than going to the National Library of Medicine's interlibrary loan service. (Two Virginia medical libraries handle medical interlibrary loan requests: the Medical College of Va. (Va. Commonwealth University) library serves the northern Virginia sector; the Medical Library, University of Virginia the rest of the state.) Libraries in the District of Columbia and Maryland must go directly to the Mid-Atlantic branch, National Library of Medicine for unusual citations.

INFORMAL ORGANIZATIONS

While libraries of federal government agencies may borrow from the Library of Congress, almost all other libraries in the local area are excluded from borrowing from this resource, although sometimes special permission may be obtained. In the last two years, budget cuts have caused many federal libraries, particularly the larger ones, to refuse interlibrary loans to any but other federal libraries. As a result, the informal organizations of libraries possessing like interests have assumed an importance out of proportion to their size. This is particularly true since the professional associations have limited themselves to only the most formal cooperative projects.

The Urban Studies Library Group has been meeting bimonthly for almost two years to discuss common problems and to foster stronger collections and cooperation. A recent topic was the problem of heavy use of their collections by students from local universities and colleges. They are also trying to plan for shared cataloging of Congressional Documents.

The Committee on Information Hang-Ups was originally formed by representatives of a couple of dozen libraries which were heavy users of the Defense Documentation Center, to discuss problems of use arising from the regulations and publications of the Defense Documentation Center and the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information Service (now the National Technical Information Service). Their study, "Information Hang-Ups" (September 1969) presented the criticisms and recommendations of library users to the administrators of the two services; almost all the improvements suggested are now in train. Rather than disband, the Committee decided to build on its achievement and to study other problems insoluble for the individual library but possibly vulnerable to the attack by a group of concerned libraries. A number of sub-committees are at work: some with more activity and progress than others. They include:

1. A directory project, which will identify where to obtain non-standard items that technical libraries doing business with the government are frequently responsible for obtaining. (These include DOD directives, federal or military standards and specifications, and similar items). Planning is well along, but the preparation for publication of "Where to Get It" is hung up on financing. The Joint Venture and the Government Services Committee, Special Libraries Association, have both indicated interest in the project.

2. A project to locate computer programs for library operations that might be available to libraries other than the library originating. A questionnaire is being drafted.

3. Microforms and microform equipment and the problems they present to libraries.

4. Thesauri and announcement services

5. Acquisition processes and security barriers

6. Information costs and standards. This subcommittee hopes to find at least a partial answer to the question, "What does it cost to do business with the government so far as costs relate to information?"

7. Interlibrary cooperation. This report is the result of this Subcommittee's activity.

There has also been discussion of services from the Government Printing Office.

The formally organized Federal Library Committee is simultaneously a committee of special libraries and also one of large research libraries. Permanent members of the guiding group within the Committee are representatives of the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Library of Agriculture. Other members represent several of the major departmental libraries of the Executive Branch of the U.S. government. Meetings of the Committee are administrative, which are closed to all but the actual members of the Committee, and tutorial, which may be attended by outsiders, if advance arrangement is made with the Secretary of the Committee, Kurt Cylke, at his office in the Library of Congress. The Committee also sponsors training institutes and workshops for the federal librarian which are not open to others. Its monthly "Federal Library Committee Newsletter" with accompanying appendices, "Roster of Prospective Federal Librarians" listing library school students who want jobs in the Washington area, and "Vacancy Roster in Federal Libraries" listing job openings, is available to libraries outside the U.S. government, and contains much useful material.

The Librarians' Technical Committee of the Metropolitan Council of Governments, Washington, D.C. is composed of Federal, public, and educational libraries of the region (which our respondent also claimed included special libraries - he failed to name any, nor can we identify any). The Committee is planning research into two areas: cooperation in technical processing, and library service to the disadvantaged. It was also reported that a subcommittee is working to develop a directory of Ph.D. and Master's theses in the Washington area universities.